

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

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R 121207Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3991

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2226

FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 369 DTD 12 FEB 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0369

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: PRESIDENT OF GOA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE DEMANDS
DISSOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT

1. ACCORDING TO FZVASHAKTI (BOMBAY MARATHI DAILY OF FREE PRESS GROUP) OF FEBRUARY 12, GOA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE PRESIDENT MRS. SULOCHANA KATKAR AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT PANAJI ON FEBRUARY 11 DEMANDED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GOA ON THE BASIS OF ITS FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE 20-POINT PROGRAM AND ITS "ANTI-FARMER POLICIES" WHICH ALLEGEDLY BLOCK GOAN'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. COMMENT: THE CONGRESS PARTY HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GAIN SIGNIFICANT FOLLOWING IN GOA DESPITE THE CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE IT HAS RECEIVED FROM DELHI. THE HINDU MAHARASHTRAWADI GOMANTAK PARTY (MGP), WHICH HAS A CLEAR MAJORITY IN THE GOA LEGISLATURE, HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CENTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE DEATH OF ITS FOUNDER, PRESIDENT AND EX-CHIEF MINISTER D.B. BANDODKAR A FEW YEARS AGO. ONE LOCAL WELL-KNOWN GOAN
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REMARKED TO US A FEW DAYS AGO THAT "GOA IS NEXT ON THE LIST FOR

PRESIDENT'S RULE AFTER GUJARAT," BUT UNTIL THAT TIME WE HAD
HEARD NO MENTION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE THERE. IN FACT, THERE WOULD
SEEM TO BE NO REASON FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MGP GOVERNMENT
AND THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE, AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE.
END COMMENT.

3. INTERESTINGLY, THE FEBRUARY 14 ISSUE OF BLITZ CARRIES THE
FOLLOWING LITTLE ITEM ON GOA: QUOTE GOA, GOING... SIDDHARTH
BANDODKAR, AT PRESENT CONVALESCING IN JASLOK HOSPITAL IN
BOMBAY, HAS DECIDED TO JOIN THE CONGRESS AND FORM THE
CONGRESS MINISTER WHICH HE IS LIKELY TO HEAD. HE IS SUPPORTED
BY A FAIR NUMBER OF MAHARASHTRA WADI GOMANTAK MLAS AS WELL
AS SOME OPPOSITION MEMBERS. IF THIS HAPPENS, GOA WILL FALL
TO THE CONGRESS. UNQUOTE.
COURTNEY

SGQUOTE
SAXBE

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NNN

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